

Positive Discipline

The Department of Education wants to help your school with positive discipline programs.

Superintendent Tom Horne's Discipline Initiative; please check our website at www.ade.state.az.us. This includes:

- The Arizona Behavioral Initiative offers grants to schools and distance learning courses through Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona regarding school-wide positive behavior support (<http://abi.ed.asu.edu>).
- Best practices regarding positive discipline and effective instruction through the Discipline Initiative website (www.ade.state.az.us) and through www.azpromisingpractices.com.
- Classroom Management and Discipline workshops. Please contact www.DisciplineInitiative@azed.gov
- Pamphlets for parents, urging support of teachers in discipline incidents, are available from ADE, at www.ade.state.az.us

References for Key rules on Behavior

- School boards have the job of supporting and assisting teachers in the enforcement of rules. (A.R.S.15-843.D.1.-4.)
- A teacher may remove a student from the classroom who is disruptive. (A.R.S.15-841.A.2.)
- A school may reassign a pupil to an alternative program if the pupil refuses to comply with rules. (A.R.S.15-841.E.;A.R.S.15-841.F.)
- A student can forfeit his/her right to a free public education. Expulsion is for continued disruptive behavior, or for violent or dangerous behavior. (A.R.S.15-841.B.)
- A school may refuse to admit any pupil who has been expelled from another public school. (A.R.S.15-841.C.)



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Arizona Department of Education
Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Teachers and Administrators

A message from Tom Horne regarding teacher and administrator rights under his initiative to ensure classroom discipline.

You have the right to be supported by the system in requiring proper classroom discipline.



**Teachers and administrators have a right to be supported by their school boards.
School boards have a responsibility to enforce policies and procedures.**

The following is an open letter from State Superintendent Tom Horne to school board members throughout Arizona:



Arizona Department of Education

Dear School Board Member:

In my 24 years serving on a school board, I have experienced school issues from your perspective. We all seek academic excellence. Experience shows that this cannot be accomplished without strongly supporting teachers and administrators in establishing school discipline. It can be tempting to accommodate parents seeking "another chance" for a child facing consequences; but ninety-nine percent of parents want a professional, disciplined atmosphere where students can learn. We should not allow the other one percent to interfere with the learning atmosphere. Over-ruling teachers and administrators on discipline or retention lowers morale, undermines discipline, and negatively affects academic achievement. School districts that fully support teachers and administrators in discipline and retention do far better academically. The Arizona Department of Education wants to be of service in this area. For questions, please call Deputy Associate Superintendent of Discipline Initiative, Dr. Ann Hart, at (602) 364-1971.

Sincerely,

Tom Horne

Tom Horne

**Teachers have the right to have
an objective team determine
whether disruptive students should
be removed from class.**

A.R.S. § 15-841.J provides, in part:

... The principal shall not return a pupil to the classroom from which the pupil was removed without the teacher's consent unless the committee determines that the return of the pupil to that classroom is the best or only practicable alternative...

**Strong discipline is necessary for
academic achievement.**

Students must be held accountable for their actions and be given appropriate consequences for their behavior. Equally important, a positive discipline and reward program can help focus on the behaviors that are acceptable and encouraged. Please see the reverse side for information on services provided by the Department of Education.